

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:RAPOOLE:BAL

APPROVED BY IO/CMDRAPOOLE

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R 302025Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK OECD PARIS
EC BRUSSELS FROM COPENHAGEN JUN 19

QOUTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 1726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, EGEN, DA

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON DEALING WITH CERDS

REF: A. STATE 133602, B. STATE 136591

SUMMARY. DANISH THINKING ON HANDLING REFERENCES TO THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) RUNS GENERALLY PARALLEL TO OURS. THEY HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT UNIFIED APPROACH TO PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE. FONOFF HAS INSTRUCTED ITS UN MISSION TO DUCK THESE ISSUES, IF POSSIBLE, AT SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA THIS WEEK BUT, IF PROPOSALS INCORPORATING OBJECTIONAL REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO SHOULD COME TO A VOTE, TO ABSTAIN AND STATE AS REASON PREVIOUS DANISH RESERVATIONS ON THESE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. US THINKING ON APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO IN US FORUMS (REF A) WERE GIVEN TO FONOFF LAST WEEK IN AN AIDE MEMOIRE. FONOFF CONSIDERED US POSITION IN PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS TO DANISH UN MISSION ON HANDLING OF
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THESE QUESTIONS AT PREP COMM MEETING ON SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA

STARTING JUNE 16. MISSION WAS TOLD THAT, IF REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO ARISE IN MEETING, IT SHOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE REFERENCES FORMULATED IN WAY WHICH RESPECT PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DANISH RESERVATIONS. FONOFF DOES NOT BELIEVE QUESTION WOULD COME TO A VOTE BUT, IF IT DOES, DENMARK WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN AND REITERATE ITS RESERVATIONS IN EXPLAINING ITS VOTING POSITION.

2. IN GIVING HIS PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, FONOFF OFFICE DIRECTOR ISAKSEN TOLD ECON COUNS THAT HE AGREED WITH US OBJECTIVES BUT THOUGHT WE WERE BEING TOO AMBITIOUS IN PROPOSING A UNIFIED APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT NOT EVEN NORDICS OR EC CAN AGREE ON COMMON LINE; HE SAW NO HOPE FOR AGREEMENT AMONG LARGER GROUPING OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.

3. ON THE BASIS OF HIS UN EXPERIENCE, ISAKSEN THOUGHT POLITICAL TACTICS ON HANDLING OF LDC ISSUES WERE SO DIVERGENT AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT EACH QUESTION WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THIS RELATED ALSO TO DENMARK WHICH WILL, OUT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, HAVE TO TREAD VERY CAREFULLY IN VOTING ON THESE ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT THE NEGATIVE VOTE CAST BY DENMARK LAST YEAR ON CERDS UNDER A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICIZED BY THE SUCCEEDING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN. GIVEN THIS POLITICAL REALITY, ISAKSEN FELT THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION NOW REQUIRES CASE-BY-CASE DECISIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS SENT LAST WEEK TO THE DANISH UN MISSION FOR THE PREP COMM WOULD LIKELY BE THE MODEL HE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW ON ISSUES OF THIS SORT.

4. ISAKSEN EMPHASIZED THAT HIS WERE ONLY VERY PRELIMINARY VIEWS AND THAT THE ISSUE REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY AND CONSIDERATION AND, FOR THIS, THE US THOUGHTS ARE VERY WELCOME.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE CHARGE HAS ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW ONE HANDLES THE NEW CHALLENGES FROM THE LDC'S WITH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR BORCH WHO IMMEDIATELY PROPOSED A DISCUSSION IN DEPTH ON THE ISSUE BETWEEN THE EMBASSY, HIMSELF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ISAKSEN. WE EXPECT THIS DISCUSSION TO PROVIDE A MORE CONSIDERED READING ON DANISH VIEWS THAN ISAKSEN'S INITIAL REACTIONS. DUNNIGAN UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NONALIGNED NATIONS, CERDS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE154069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPOOLE:BAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-1258
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975062/aaaaabtztel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 133602, 75 STATE 136591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS ON DEALING WITH CERDS
TAGS: EGEN, IT, UN
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006